

Community Newsletter

March 2022 Edition



Note from Mayor Meghan F. George



In April, The City of Lakewood's Human Services Department will open its new home to the community at the former Cove United Methodist Church site. After much public input to clarify the vision for the campus, we are looking forward to unifying the City's Human Service programs into one building to provide an incredible asset for Lakewood. For decades, the programs of the Division of Aging, Youth, and Early Childhood were operated out of multiple facilities. While services have always been top notch, we believe that bringing them together under a single roof will provide an opportunity for greater community impact. The consolidation will create more synergy among Divisions, particularly intergenerational programming opportunities.

The new Cove Community Center at 12501 Lake Avenue will be home to senior nutrition, transportation, and activity programs; the Lakewood Family Room; (H2O) Help to Others (Youth service-learning volunteer and leadership program); community-based social work services; and the Juvenile Diversion program. In addition to these core offerings, Cove will offer flexible meeting space to help with family and resident connectivity and engagement.

The project also allowed us to take a historic church building that might have otherwise been demolished for dense development and creatively adapt it to serve our community's needs. Another major plus of this project is that the 1.7-acre property has significant mature trees and greenspace that we can preserve and provide for public access. We have incorporated elements to promote health and wellness space outdoors as well as recreations spaces for all age residents. The site also has enough space for us to integrate stormwater retention infrastructure in the future, helping to meet our obligations regarding federal clean water laws.

I'm grateful to Director of Human Services Toni Gelsomino, who spearheaded this project and has served our city so well for decades. And Toni would remind me that many Lakewood leaders and Human Service staff have advocated and championed this model for the Department of Human Services for almost 40 years. We are fortunate to have visionary thinkers and doers that continue to recognize that strong communities are intentionally built and supported. The project also received strong support from Lakewood City Council and our statehouse representatives who advocated on the city's behalf to receive funding from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addition Services. This has truly been a team effort.

We will soon announce the date for a grand opening ceremony and open house for the new Cove Community Center. I invite you to attend and take advantage of the opportunity to tour the space and learn more about how it will serve our residents.

Mayor Meghan F. George



**Community activity room in
Cove Community Center**



**The new Family Room in
Cove Community Center**

Upcoming Events & Updates

Wednesday, March 16 - Coffee with a Cop

The Lakewood Police Department will host "Coffee with a Cop" event on Wednesday, March 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Nature's Oasis, 15613 Detroit Avenue.

Thursday-March 31- H2O Home Alone Program

HOME ALONE events are designed by H2O high school leaders and staff to convey important safety information in an engaging, meaningful way. Thursday, March 31st from 6-8 p.m.



Calendar of Events

Meet Officer Paul Sidell



If you have ever met Officer Paul Sidell out and about in the community, chances are you remember his warm and kind demeanor.

Throughout Paul's 30 years of service to Lakewood, he has received countless letters of appreciation for his professionalism and kindness, as well as numerous letters of commendation for his outstanding efforts in solving and preventing crime. Serving the City of Lakewood as a police officer is all in the family. He followed in his father's footsteps, who served as a Cleveland Police Department officer.

Paul has worn many hats and served in a variety of roles as a police officer, including as a Field Training Officer, using his vast knowledge of the law, police work, and Lakewood to train and nurture new officers.

When Paul isn't serving the citizens of Lakewood, he enjoys refurbishing classic cars.

Lakewood Community Health Needs Assessment

How healthy is Lakewood? That's the question the Lakewood Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is hoping to answer. The Lakewood CHNA will examine a variety of health and wellness factors (social determinants of health) among Lakewood Residents and develop an action plan to inform the delivery of equitable community programs and initiatives. Because we need to meet the needs of the entire community, this CHNA project aims to produce something comprehensive and actionable by the end of this year - a plan for more equitable programs and initiatives to serve all Lakewood residents.

More than 60% of our health is determined by where we live.

HOW HEALTHY IS LAKEWOOD?

Subscribe to learn more:
commsols.com/Lakewood



The health of a city is determined by the people who live, work, and play there, and we hope to learn about the health of Lakewood by examining the social determinants of health. Resources such as food supply, housing, economic and social relationships, transportation, education, and health care all work together to determine length and quality of life. Identifying Lakewood's strengths and challenges will play a critical role in developing, implementing, and improving health-centered community programs and initiatives.

Community participation and input are essential to highlight Lakewood's unseen challenges and determine how residents can best be served. Should you receive a survey in the mail, we ask that you please take the time to complete and return it so your input can be included. More information is available at: commsols.com/Lakewood

Lakewood Student Honored



The Lakewood Fire Department (LFD) and City of Lakewood were proud to recognize Roosevelt elementary student Mariah King at the Lakewood Board of Education meeting.

Mariah participated in the LFD's Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest, and her poster was one of two chosen by members of the LFD to be submitted to the State Fire Marshal's office for consideration. Mariah's poster went on to be selected as one of the six best posters statewide.

Mayor George presented Mariah with a proclamation from the city and the State Fire Marshal presented her with a ribbon, certificate, and a small gift. Congratulations, Mariah!

Climate Action Plan Update

The City has worked hard to build awareness and momentum for environmental projects that advance sustainability initiatives. Among many other items, this includes undertaking a Climate Action Plan to help us identify where we as a City and as a community can be most effective and equitable in addressing climate impacts.

On Tuesday, February 15th, the City kicked off its public engagement in our Climate Action Plan. This Climate Action Plan will pull together a variety of mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency policies and initiatives into a comprehensive plan, that sustains

the momentum we have started as well as creates accountability within the City. Our overarching priorities are developing this plan are:

1. Contribution to a cohesive, integrated Sustainability initiative that considers people, place, and prosperity in our neighborhoods.
2. Metrics to analyze and prioritize city investments. Produce realistic metrics that can be used to guide prioritization, measure progress, and refine actions.
3. A focused and integrated set of actions and goals that facilitate a measurable shift in outcomes towards an appropriate balance of environmental, economic, and social well-being across our community.
4. Ensuring the actions address social and racial equity, making sure that no Lakewood resident is left behind as the community moves forward by involving frontline communities in the planning and decision-making process.
5. Identify and foster partnerships. Lakewood knows that government is just one group, and not necessarily always the most appropriate group to affect change. Through these plans we expect to bring others to the table and move towards common goals and interests.



If you missed the first town hall, there will be more to come in the future. Stay tuned to our [website](#) for more information. To learn about other ways to get involved in this process, please email planning@lakewoodoh.net.

We are Hiring!



The City of Lakewood is currently seeking applicants for the following openings:

Fleet Mechanic
Lateral Entry Level Police Officer
Finance Manager

For more information and to apply, please click [here](#).

Spectacular Vernacular

The City has officially released its call for artists and property/business owners to submit applications of interest for our Spectacular Vernacular program. This public art program creates opportunities for collaboration between artists and property/business owners to create art designed for the public on private properties.

The focus for this year's program are permanent murals, temporary lighting installations that help activate spaces, and any additional public art and media outlets. The deadline for the application of interest is March 22 at 12pm.

All submittals, questions, or concerns should be emailed to Amanda Cramer, City Planner, at Amanda.cramer@lakewoodoh.net.

See the application for more information [here](#).



**SPECTACULAR
VERNACULAR 2022
CALLING ARTISTS, PROPERTY
OWNERS AND BUSINESS
OWNERS!**

Application of interest now open,
deadline to submit is March 22 at
noon. See website for details:
<https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/publicart/>

The City of Lakewood's public art program
creates opportunities for collaboration
between artists and property/business
owners to create art designed for the public
on private properties.

Background Image Credit: Jordan Wong, 17006-17008 Madison

Register for H2O Home Alone



Do you have a 9-12-year-old at home? Consider registering them for HOME ALONE on Thursday March 31 from 6-8 p.m.

HOME ALONE events are designed by H2O high school leaders and staff to convey important safety information in an engaging, meaningful way. During each 2.5-hour training, students will rotate with their assigned group through six interactive safety presentations led by H2O high school leaders. Students must be accompanied by at least one parent or guardian, and must also be Lakewood residents to attend.

Registration opens on March 7th. Click [here](#) to register.

Lakewood Interceptor Tunnel Rehabilitation

Lakewood Interceptor Tunnel Rehabilitation – Project Vicinity Map



The Lakewood Interceptor Tunnel Rehabilitation Project began on February 14th. The

installation of the interceptor began in 1918 and was completed in the 1940s. It is in need of rehabilitation to prolong its lifespan.

The interceptor is approximately 19,000 feet long and ranges in depth from 20' at the east end of Lakewood to 94' deep at the west end of Lakewood. It is located primarily along Edgewater Drive from West 117th to Webb and jogs to West Clifton where it flows to the Lakewood Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The interceptor collects and carries both combined sewer and sanitary sewer flows from approximately 77% of the city to the WWTP.

This vital project, estimated to cost \$26 million dollars, is being funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and the Ohio Public Works Commission, and the City is seeking additional funding as funds become available.

As part of the project, there are some on-street parking restrictions between the hours of 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Most of these restrictions will be during the day and parking will be permitted overnight. Please visit the city's [website](#) for updates.